WILDLIFE/FISHERIES BIOLOGIST I

This is journey level professional biological work in the management of wildlife or inland fisheries resources.

Employees either function as district biologists or as applied research biologists in either inland fisheries or wildlife management. As district biologists, employees provide technical assistance to land, pond or lake owners in improving habitat and increasing the numbers and varieties of fish and wildlife; perform investigations to determine reasons for declining fish or wildlife populations and to determine possible solutions; conduct and/or participate in surveys to determine actual populations; and solve nuisance wildlife problems. Employees may direct the work of a Wildlife/Fisheries Technician. As research biologists, employees independently plan and conduct applied research projects of limited scope and/or participate in larger, more complex studies by planning and conducting a delegated portion of the study. In both cases, work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level biologist and may include other related duties as assigned.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - District and applied research biologists work in either wildlife management or inland fisheries management. The work of district biologists is characterized by a wide range of assignments from solving nuisance wildlife problems to planning or participating in wildlife or fish survey work. The work of research biologists is generally limited to one species of wildlife.

Intricacy - The work of research biologists requires the selection of sampling techniques, equipment and data gathering methods. Work includes assignments representative of all phases of the study process including problem identification, planning, organizing, scheduling, conducting, analyzing and documentation of results. The work of district biologists is generally characterized by recurring problems with similar solutions. Occasionally, unusual problems occur which defy standard problem solving techniques and standard solutions.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires the practical application of biological principles in either inland fisheries or wildlife management. Employees must be knowledgeable of wildlife or fisheries species, their habits and habitats, and the range of environmental problems affecting wildlife or fish populations.

Guidelines - Employees apply professional principles and practices, divisional policies and procedures and scientific standards for taxonomic identification. These standards are applicable to most situations encountered.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - District biologists receive overall areas of emphasis and goals. Within these broad guidelines, employees independently plan and conduct their district activities. Research biologists, when participating in studies, receive goals for their study phase and are expected to plan and conduct their portions independently. As study leaders, employees plan and conduct entire studies independently.

Nature of Review - As district biologists are located away from their immediate supervisor, their work is reviewed through submitted reports on activities and results and occasional on-site visits from their supervisors. The work of research biologists is reviewed through technical review of study plans, periodic status reports and technical review of study results.

Scope of Decisions - Decisions made by district biologists affect individual landowners, citizen groups interested in wildlife or inland fisheries management, and individual hunters and fishers. Decisions made by them and research biologists involved in survey work contribute to decisions which affect the establishment of hunting and fishing regulations.

Consequence of Decisions - Decisions made by district biologists could impact on wildlife or fish populations on individual tracts of land, lakes or ponds. Decisions made by research biologists could impact on management techniques applied statewide or on hunting or fishing regulations.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Working contacts are required with members of the general public, individual or groups of hunters and fishers, members of environmental groups, members of other natural resources agencies, and the owners of land, lakes, or ponds.

Nature and Purpose - Contacts are primarily for educational purposes and to present the results of surveys and recommendations resulting from those surveys.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - The majority of work is performed in the field. Employees are exposed to disagreeable conditions such as inclement weather and agricultural chemicals.

Hazards - Employees are exposed to hazardous chemicals, dangerous animals, moving equipment and the hazards of traveling through forested areas or open waters.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities –

Working knowledge of the principles and practices of wildlife management or fisheries management, zoology and botany.

Working knowledge of a variety of species of wildlife and fish, their habits and habitats.

Working knowledge of wildlife or fisheries management study techniques and equipment.

Working knowledge of fish and game production, distribution and management. Ability to prepare written technical reports.

Ability to communicate effectively orally.

Ability to design and conduct moderately complex field studies.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other biologists, members of the general public, and members of groups interested in wildlife or fisheries management.

Minimum Education and Experience Requirements

Bachelor's degree in wildlife or fisheries management, zoology or biology from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of experience in wildlife or fisheries management; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Minimum Education And Experience For A Trainee Appointment:

Bachelor's degree in wildlife or fisheries management, zoology or biology from an appropriately accredited institution; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Note

This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.